Cadre strength of Indian Supply Service

3647. SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI:
SHRI CHHOTUBHAI PATEL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite decentralisation of adhoc purchases, the cadre strength of Indian Supply Service and its functions will remain same;

(b) whether it is also a fact that recruitment to this service has been stopped;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and also whether amendment to the service rules has been issued to make provision for the posting in different departments where the officers of this service have been transferred; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

•(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise. Need for amendment to the Recruitment Rules is not considered necessary for the present.

Pulling out of Russian buyers from tea auctions

3648. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Russian buyers pulled out of the recent tea auctions in Calcutta, Siliguri, Guwahati and Cochin;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what is overall impact on the tea industry and tea exports in the international market as a whole; and

(d) the steps contemplated by Government to avoid slump in the tea industry?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) During the current year Russian buyers have not been actively participating at tea auctions centres in India to the extent they used to participate in the past.

(b) Reasons are primarily attributable to disintegration of the erstwhile USSR, change in terms of payment from rupee to convertible currency in protocols signed between India and some of the CIS countries, foreign exchange problems being faced by some of the CIS countries etc.

(c) As a result of reduced purchase by Russian Federation and other CIS countries, there has been decline in exports of tea from India during the current year.

(d) Government has been encouraging diversification of tea exports by sponsoring industry delegations to various countries. Trade Protocols have also been entered into with some of the CIS countries including Russia. Other countries are being persuaded to buy higher quantities of Indian tea indicating to them the price competitiveness and quality of our tea.

Liberalisation of imports

3649. SHRI S.K.T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether liberalisation of imports of certain commodities has any impact on the trend of increase of volume of exports;

(b) which are the products whose exports have increased due to liberalisation of imports;

(c) whether Government are still pursuing the policy of import substitution; and

(d) which are the products those imports are curtailed or stopped due to the success in finding suitable substitution?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) (Exports depend on a large number of